

Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
EUR-12 L-03 ACDA-07 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02
USIA-06 TRSE-00 IGA-02 COME-00 OMB-01 FBOE-00
/073 W

-----127927 011454Z /47

R 301747Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3267
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
CNO WASHDC
CINCUSNAVEUR
COMNAVTELCOM
COMNAVFACENGCOM
COMNAVTRACOM KENITRA

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 5420

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR MMOL US MO
SUBJECT: MOROCCO BASE CLOSURE

REF: STATE 225086, RABAT 5256, RABAT 4068

1. EMBASSY APPRECIATES THE OPPORTUNITY TO AMPLIFY ITS
BASIC RATIONALE FOR THE SUBSTANTIAL BENEFITS THAT WOULD
ACCRUE FROM THE TURNOVER OF THE GENERATORS AS WELL AS THE
CLASS III, IV AND MINOR PROPERTY DISCUSSED RABAT 4068 AT
SIDI YAHIA, KENITRA AND BOUKNADEL.

2. IN THE INCREASINGLY TIGHT FABRIC OF OUR OVERALL
RELATIONS WITH MOROCCO THAT I HAVE DEVELOPED WITH THE KING,
THE TURNOVER OF OUR FACILITIES IN A FULLY OPERATIONAL
CONDITION IS A KEY ELEMENT. INDEED AS RECENTLY AS SEPTEMBER
28 I ASSURED THE CHIEF OF THE OFFICE OF DEFENSE ADMINISTRATION
THAT THE NAVY IS WORKING ON THE FUNDAMENTAL PREMISE THAT THE
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FACILITIES WOULD BE TURNED OVER TO THE GOM IN FULLY OPERATIONAL
CONDITION WITH THE NECESSARY SUPPORT EQUIPMENT.

3. AS DEPARTMENT KNOWS, THE PRESENCE OF OUR NAVAL FACILITIES
OVER THE DECADES HAS BEEN ON THE BASIS OF A "HANDSHAKE AGREEMENT"
AT THE CHIEF OF STATE LEVEL. IT WOULD BE, IN MY VIEW, DEMEANING
AND WOULD CERTAINLY BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE TO SEEK SPECIFIC

WRITTEN LINKAGE OR ADMISSION OF QUIDS PRO QUO FROM KING HASSAN.
I AM FIRMLY PERSUADED THAT THE FOLLOWING APSECTS OF OUR
MILITARY COOPERATION WITH MOROCCO ARE LINKED AND COULD BE
JEOPARDIZED BY OUR FAILURE TO COOPERATE TO THE FULLEST IN
THE TRANSITION PROCESS OF THE TURNOVER:

A. MOROCCO'S CONTINUED WILLINGNESS TO RECEIVE VISITS OF
NUCLEAR-POWERED WARSHIPS, WHICH I UNDERSTAND REMAINS ONE OF
DOD'S HIGHEST PRIORITIES IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD;

B. THE KING'S APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE TO ACCEPT A USAF GEODSS
INSTALLATION, PRESUMABLY WITHOUT SPECIFIC COMPENSATION AND, AS
WE DESIRE, ON A MOROCCAN AIR BASE;

C. THE KING'S EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS FOR FURTHER DEFENSE
COOPERATION WITH THE U.S. AS OUR DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS CONTINUE
TO EVOLVE.

4. THE ABOVE CONCERNS HAVE BECOME ALL THE MORE PERTINENT
IN LIGHT OF THE USG'S UNILATERAL RECISION THIS WEEK OF ITS
UNDERTAKING TO ACCORD MOROCCO AN ADDITIONAL \$15 MILLION IN FMS
CREDITS IN FY 77 AND IN LIGHT OF THE PASSAGE OF OVER TWO
MONTHS DURING WHICH WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO TALK DETAILS WITH
THE GOM ABOUT OUR CLOSURE PROCEDURES. WITH ONLY THREE
MONTHS REMAINING BEFORE THE CLOSURE OF OUR FIRST OF THREE
INSTALLATIONS, SIDI YAHIA, WE ARE BEING PUT IN AN INCREASINGLY
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DEFENSIVE POSITION WITH THE GOM. THIS IS NOT IN OUR INTEREST.

5. THE GENERATORS IN QUESTION ARE LARGE, VISIBLE, AND
CLEARLY CONSIDERED VITAL BY THE MOROCCANS. THE REMOVAL OF
THIS CLASS II PROPERTY WOULD QUICKLY BECOME IN MY VIEW AN
INDICATION OF OUR EFFORT TO "GUT" THE FACILITIES. CERTAIN
OF THE GENERATORS CAN BE FULLY JUSTIFIED AS ABSOLUTELY
ESSENTIAL TO MAINTAIN OPERATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS. OTHERS ARE
NOT ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL FOR THE ANTICIPATED USE OF THE
FACILITIES, BUT WOULD BE HIGHLY DESIRABLE BACKUP.

6. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO DETERMINE WHAT THE UNITS WOULD BRING
IF SOLD. FIVE UNITS ALTHOUGH SERVICEABLE ARE ABOUT FORTY
YEARS OLD; THE YOUNGEST IS ABOUT 25 YEARS OLD. IF OFFERED
FOR SALE IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE ONLY BIDDER WOULD BE THE
GOM. PRICE DETERMINATION WOULD IN ALL LIKELIHOOD BE BY
NEGOTIATED SALE WITH THE USG ACCEPTING WHAT THE GOM WAS
WILLING TO PAY.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY BASE CLOSINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 30-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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From: RABAT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MOROCCO BASE CLOSURE
TAGS: MARR, MMOL, US, MO
To: STATE
Type: TE
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